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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TWO CONVICTED OF BANK FRAUD AND FALSE CLAIMS CONSPIRACY**

**AUGUSTA, GA:** Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced that two defendants have entered guilty pleas in U.S. District Court in Augusta to charges of conspiracy to defraud the government and bank fraud. Shaddrick Delano Walker entered his guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr. on January 20, 2005. Stanley Lawrence Burke, Sr. had earlier entered his guilty plea.

The defendants were originally named in a 47-Count Indictment charging both Augusta area residents with conspiracy to defraud the government, false claims against the government, and bank fraud. The indictment charged that the false claims submitted to the government totaled approximately \$78,000, while the fraudulently obtained money from BankOne totaled approximately \$62,000.

During their Rule 11 hearings, the evidence showed the defendants participated in a conspiracy to defraud the United States Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), through the creation of false W-2 forms and false 1999 Individual Income Tax Returns in order to receive fraudulent tax refunds. The evidence also showed the defendants defrauded BankOne by submitting fraudulent refund anticipation loan applications to the bank (supported by the false tax returns) to obtain bank loans in the amounts of the anticipated tax refunds.

Burke and Walker each face up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for the conspiracy conviction, and up to 30 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for the bank fraud conviction.

The investigation involved the cooperative efforts of the United States Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, and the United States Secret Service. The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorney Nancy C. Greenwood.

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